MARVEL PAK • IENCO • BLEE 37

STAR WARS

DARK DROIDS

DARTH VADER

CURSE OF THE JEDI, *SCOURGE* OF THE DROIDS

After the Fermata Cage caused Darth Vader's control of the Force to waver, he tracked down Doctor Chelli Aphra to help him retrieve the ancient Zaly Shield: a weapon made of kyberite that can help Force users focus their energies.

Darth Vader utilized the shield to take on the droid uprising that launched an attack on the Sith Lord while his powers were not fully in control.

As Vader slowly regained his command of the Force, he turned the tide in the battle with the droid uprising, directing Ochi and Zed to retrieve the scraps of fallen droids and enlist them to serve his dark purposes....

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THESE REPAIRS SHOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETED 2 HOURS AND 37 MINUTES AGO!

WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF THIS UNCONSCIONABLE DELAY?

SOMETIMES THINGS TAKE LONGER THAN YOU EXPECT.

AH!

YOU THERE! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

KLANK

tink

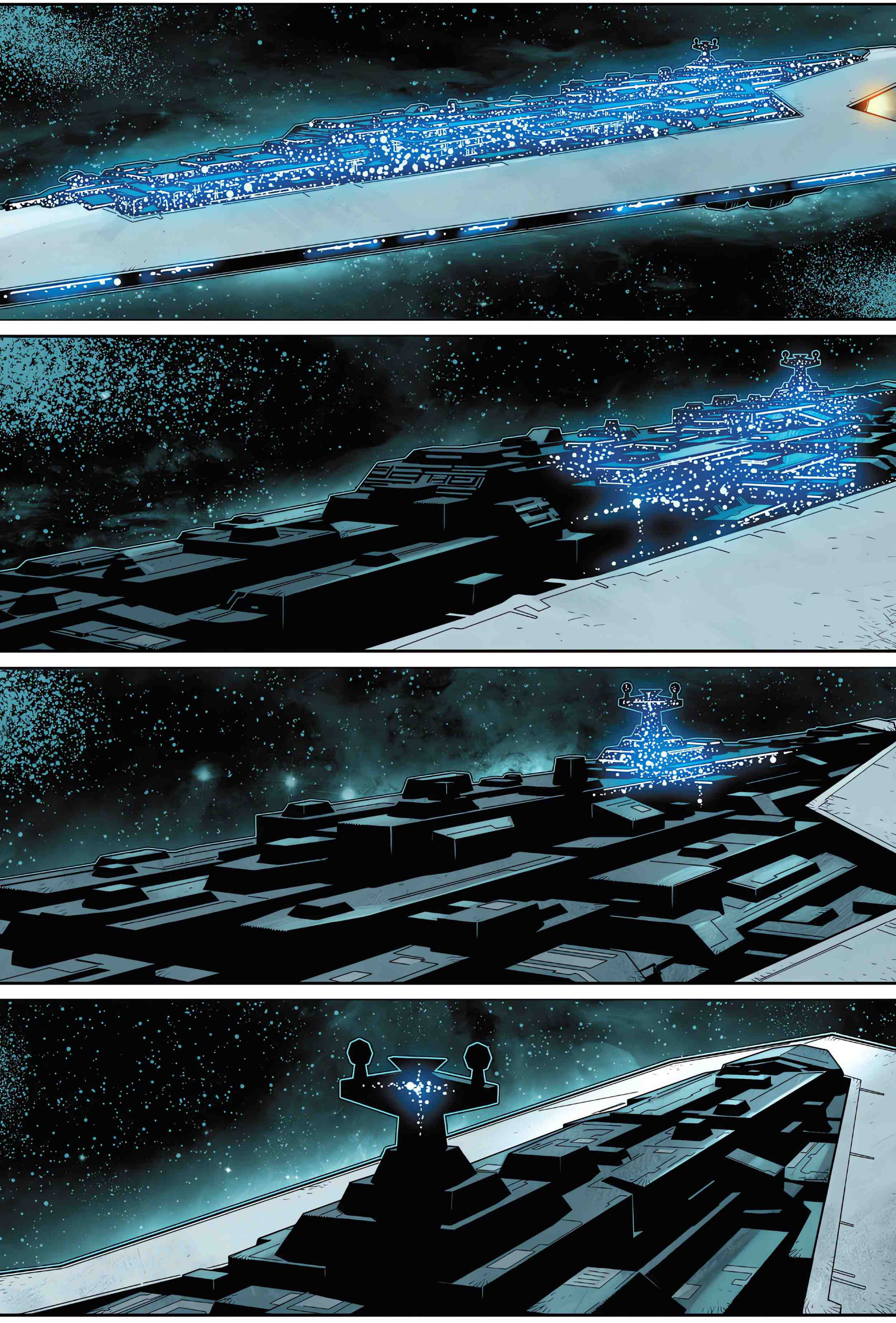
WE'RE ON A SCHEDULE HERE! I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR--

SKRRTT

AAAAH!

WHAT THE--

THERE YOU ARE!
WHAT'S THE HOLD-UP?
SOMETIMES...
...THINGS TAKE LONGER THAN YOU EXPECT...
YEAH! YOU'RE 27 MINUTES LATE!
...AND SOMETIMES...
...THEY MOVE MUCH MORE QUICKLY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? LET'S JUST--
HEY!
KLANG
BRZZAM
BRZZAAM
AAAAAH!



THE LAST ORGANICS HAVE HOLED THEMSELVES UP ON THE BRIDGE AND ITS ADJOINING SECTORS.

BUT WE SHOULD REACH THEM IN 93 SECONDS.

OR...

...WE CAN KEEP THEM TRAPPED.

BUT LET THEM LIVE.

FOR NOW.

WITH LIMITED COMMS. EMERGENCY BEACON ONLY. SO THEY CAN'T SAY EXACTLY WHAT'S GONE WRONG.

THEY'LL CALL FOR HELP...

...AND THAT'S GOOD...

"...BECAUSE THEN THEY MIGHT SEND US OUR TRUE TARGET."

Mustafar.

KLANNG

HNN...

OH BOY.

CALM YOURSELF, OUGHT-SIX.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONE HE'S POINTING AT, AREX!

LORD VADER HAS JUST BEGUN TO RECLAIM FULL CONTROL OF HIS ABILITIES.

HE NEEDS TO CONCENTRATE, OR--

AAAAAH!

SKRRAAAAANCH

GAH!

HM.

WELL, THAT'S SOME PROGRESS, MY LORD.

SKLAAAANG

OW!

YOU HELD HIM ALOFT FOR 2.3 SECONDS BEFORE LOSING CONTROL.

PREVIOUSLY, YOUR POWERS ESCAPED YOUR CAPACITANCE AND EXPLODED OMNIDIRECTIONALLY THE INSTANT YOU TRIED TO ACCESS THEM.

PERHAPS IT'S TIME TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA!

WHEN I SERVED THE JEDI, THEY WOULD MEDITATE BEFORE--

DO NOT SPEAK TO ME OF THE JEDI.

THEY WALLOWED IN WEAKNESS, NOT POWER.

THAT'S HOW I DESTROYED YOUR OLD MASTER, IF YOU RECALL.

Y-YES, MY LORD.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

LORD VADER, APOLOGIES FOR THE INTERRUPTION...

...BUT YOU HAVE BEEN HAILED BY THE IMPERIAL PALACE.

MAY I PRESENT...

...GRAND VIZIER MAS AMEDDA.

LORD VADER, THE EXECUTOR HAS BEEN COMPROMISED BY UNKNOWN FORCES.

BY THE EMPEROR'S COMMAND, YOU ARE TO SECURE IT.

IT WILL BE DONE.

THE CHALLENGE IS... SIGNIFICANT.

HAVE YOU... REGAINED CONTROL OVER YOUR ABILITIES?

ASK THE DROID ASSASSINS YOU SENT TO TEST ME.

I...HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT THEM.

BECAUSE THEY SERVE ME NOW.

I SEE.

BUT TO MY QUESTION, LORD VADER...

...YOUR ABILITIES...

SKKRRRAKK--

KRAKKOOO

"...WHAT OTHER DROIDS HAVE SUCH PURPOSE?"

THE POWER AND LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN DISABLED IN OVER 93 PERCENT OF THE SHIP.

THE MAJORITY OF THE HUMAN CREW APPEARS TO BE DEAD.

THEN WHO THE DEVIL...

"...IS FLYING THOSE?"

"ASTROMECHS!"

VEEEOOOOT!

THIS IS ZED-SIX-SEVEN! WHAT IS GOING ON?

YOU'RE ATTACKING YOUR MASTER, LORD VADER!

AND DOING A TERRIBLE JOB OF IT, I MIGHT ADD.

DO NOT WORRY, LORD VADER. THEIR BLASTS CANNOT BREACH OUR SHIELDS.

DO NOT SPEAK OF WHAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND, DROID.

THEIR BLASTS ARE MERELY A DIVERSION.

THEY'RE COMPROMISING THE SHIP!

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RETREAT!

YOU SERVE ME NOW, DROID.

"YOU WILL NEVER RETREAT."

FLOOOOOOOOOOSH

ADMIRAL PIETT! WE STILL CAN'T SEND OR RECEIVE FULL FREQUENCIES BEYOND THE SHIP--

--BUT WE'VE RELINKED WITH LORD VADER'S COMM!

HE'S BOARDED THE EXECUTOR!

LORD VADER!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO THE DROIDS!

THEY'VE BEEN... POSSESSED!

PDDZLLZTTTTT

BRRZAM

BRZAAM

AND IF THEY GET CLOSE ENOUGH, THEY'LL COMPROMISE YOUR DROIDS!

DO NOT PRESUME, ADMIRAL PIETT...

...THAT I WOULD REPEAT *YOUR* FAILURES.

KRAKOOM

BRRZAAM

BRRZAAM

EXCELLENT!

OUTSTANDING!

CHOOM

CHOOM

FANTASTIC!

FRATZ.

THE SYSTEM HAS A FAIL-SAFE...

...A COMMAND LINE THAT WILL SHUT DOWN EVERY DROID ON BOARD.

BUT THE MACHINERY THAT CONTROLS IT HAS BEEN SHATTERED.

IT WOULD TAKE US HOURS TO REPAIR...

"...BUT I FEAR ADMIRAL PIETT HAS ONLY MINUTES."

BACK ON THE RIVER MOON OF AL'DOLEEM...

...I SAW LORD VADER REBUILD HIS LIMBS IN MERE MOMENTS USING MY PARTS...

...AND THE FORCE.

THAT LORD VADER HAD BETRAYED THE JEDI...

...BUT HE REMEMBERED THEIR TRAINING.

WELL THEN...

...THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING!

KREEEAAAK

HNN.

LORD VADER...

...I KNOW I PRESUME **TOO MUCH**...

...BUT YOU HAVE PROGRAMMED ME TO **SERVE YOU** ABOVE **ALL ELSE.**

IF YOU TRULY WISH TO **DO** THIS THING...

"...YOU **MUST** REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE **JEDI.**"

QUI-GON, SIR. I DON'T WANT TO BE A PROBLEM.

YOU WON'T BE, ANI.

I'M NOT ALLOWED TO TRAIN YOU.

SO I WANT YOU TO **WATCH** AND BE **MINDFUL.**

ALWAYS REMEMBER.

YOUR FOCUS DETERMINES YOUR **REALITY.**

SKR

AAAAFF

YOU'RE TOO **AGGRESSIVE,** ANAKIN.

BE **MINDFUL.**

A JEDI'S ROLE IS TO **DEFEND** LIFE, NOT **TAKE** IT.

YOU MUST REMEMBER...

...HOW TO USE THE FORCE...

...WITHOUT FORCE.

SURVIVAL

TCH.

IF YOU COULD ONLY REMEMBER WHAT THE JEDI--

KNOCK

AH, WELL...

...THE DIRECT METHOD IS ALWAYS AN OPTION.

FRAAAKOOOOOOOM

SKRRRAAAAAKTT

"WHAT NEWS FROM THE EXECUTOR, ADMIRAL CORLEQUE?"

"THE CREW STILL CANNOT BE REACHED BY COMM, GRAND VIZIER.

"BUT WE OBSERVED LORD VADER BREACH THE SHIP'S HULL.

"WE ASSUME HE IS CONFRONTING THE ENEMY, AND WE AWAIT HIS REPORT."

"BUT ACCORDING TO YOUR SCANS, ADMIRAL, EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE LIFE-FORMS ON BOARD ARE ALREADY DEAD."

"CORRECT, GRAND VIZIER, WITH MORE DYING EVERY MOMENT."

THEN LORD VADER HAS ALREADY FAILED.

WE CANNOT RISK THIS THREAT, WHATEVER IT IS, EXPANDING BEYOND THE EXECUTOR.

ADMIRAL CORLEQUE, BY IMPERIAL COMMAND...

...DESTROY THE EXECUTOR...

...AND EVERYONE ON BOARD.

To be continued....

It's Coming for the Metal...

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